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EXCISE

B-1 69 Pol 23 Guat

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MAY 23 1972

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ANALYSIS BRANCH

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FROM : Amembassy, Guatemala

DATE: May 12, 1972

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents, April 1972

REF : Pol 23 Guat

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 7 OCT 1981
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: The level of political violence remained relatively low for the third straight month. April's press reported incidents (60) are under 1972's monthly average (71) and contrast markedly with this time last year when newspapers carried 147 incidents. Far Left terrorists seem to have limited actions to propagandizing whereas the Government apparently continued to undertake only small-scale anti-guerrilla operations, both overtly and covertly, in the capital and the provinces. Also of note during the month were the assassination of the Zacapa municipality administrator, an assault against journalist-politician Mario MONTERROSO Armas in the capital, and the apparently unsupervised issuance of gun licenses by certain members of Congress. END SUMMARY

Statistics: The press carried 60 incidents of a probable political nature which is somewhat below the year's (January-April) average of 71. These acts of violence were almost equally distributed geographically in the South Coast, capital area, and the Eastern Region. April's totals of 31 assassinations, seven kidnappings, and one disappearance included four whom the Government reported to be guerrillas, two criminals, a finquero, a finca administrator, a military commissioner, a private policeman, and the Zacapa municipality administrator. By attribution, far Left terrorists appeared involved in seven (12%) of the month's incidents, the Government in at least eight (13%), the far Right in one (2%), and the remainder are unattributable.

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FAR LEFT ACTIONS: Six of the seven press-reported terrorist actions involved propaganda bombs and the distribution of Communist literature. The seventh, the assassination of a private policeman in Guatemala City, appears similar to past terrorist operations, but we have no confirmation of FAR or PGT participation.

COMMENT: The far Left continues to limit its activities to fund-raising, propaganda, and minor provincial actions.

[redacted] B1 FC

Security Forces: Several GOG anti-guerrilla operations made the press. The GOG announced that Army elements killed four guerrillas in two clashes in Jutiapa during the month, although we have no independent confirmation that the dead were in fact PGT or FAR members. In San Marcos, Treasury Police uncovered an arms shipment in the false bottom of a truck entering from Mexico. In the Peten, Army troops had little contact with guerrillas, and the Police established its presence in the Peten with the initial assignment of 30 agents to that Department's capital (Flores).

[redacted] B1 FB FC

told an Embassy officer that security forces had picked up "PGT member" Edwin HORNEY. Although the National Police at first publicly denied any knowledge of the incident, it subsequently announced that Horney had been released.

[redacted] B1

Finally, the San Carlos University student association sent a public letter to the Government Minister "again" asking for an investigation of the whereabouts of 11 individuals who disappeared in past months.

[redacted] FC

COMMENT: The Jalapa-Jutiapa area (see A-52, the March 1972 Monthly Report of Incidents) is apparently a far Left operational zone, but, in addition, it is also an area in which the Jutiapa Army base had been quietly but very actively conducting anti-guerrilla operations for the past several months.

Zacapa: On April 12, unknown assassins killed Zacapa Secretario Municipal Luis BETETA, who is the latest of a number of well known Zacapa citizens who have been shot to death in that Department in the past several months. [redacted] B1 B3

[redacted] told an Embassy officer that Beteta's shooting

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was carried out by local vigilantes involved in a political vendetta. The Mayor [redacted] subsequently resigned on April 24, saying only that the decision was due to anonymous death threats which he had been receiving. B/EO

COMMENT: Sett's eventual replacement will have to be a man of some courage. He will be the third Zacapa mayor in less than two years, following Sett and Marco Tulio Aldana who was killed in mid-1970.

Capital: Two incidents in Guatemala City received some press-play. Journalist and Christian Democrat (DCG) dissident Mario MONTERROSO Armas was beaten up by unknown assailants on April 22. Although the DCG and Monterroso blamed each other for staging the affair, the assailants remained unidentified. Medical doctor Victor GIORDANNI, interrogated by the National Police in regard to his bodyguard's apparent suicide attempt on April 27, said that the bodyguard had a gun license issued by MLN Deputy Oliverio CASTAÑEDA Pai[redacted] B/EO [redacted] told Embassy officers that five MLN Deputies including Castañeda were in fact issuing gun licenses without President Arana's control or knowledge of the recipients. [redacted] B/EO that the gun licenses are issued to Congressional bodyguards ostensibly, but, in fact, have been used to create a private army whose activities include a profitable bodyguard service for wealthy Guatemalans.

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Enclosure: Monthly Frequency of Political Incidents by Region.

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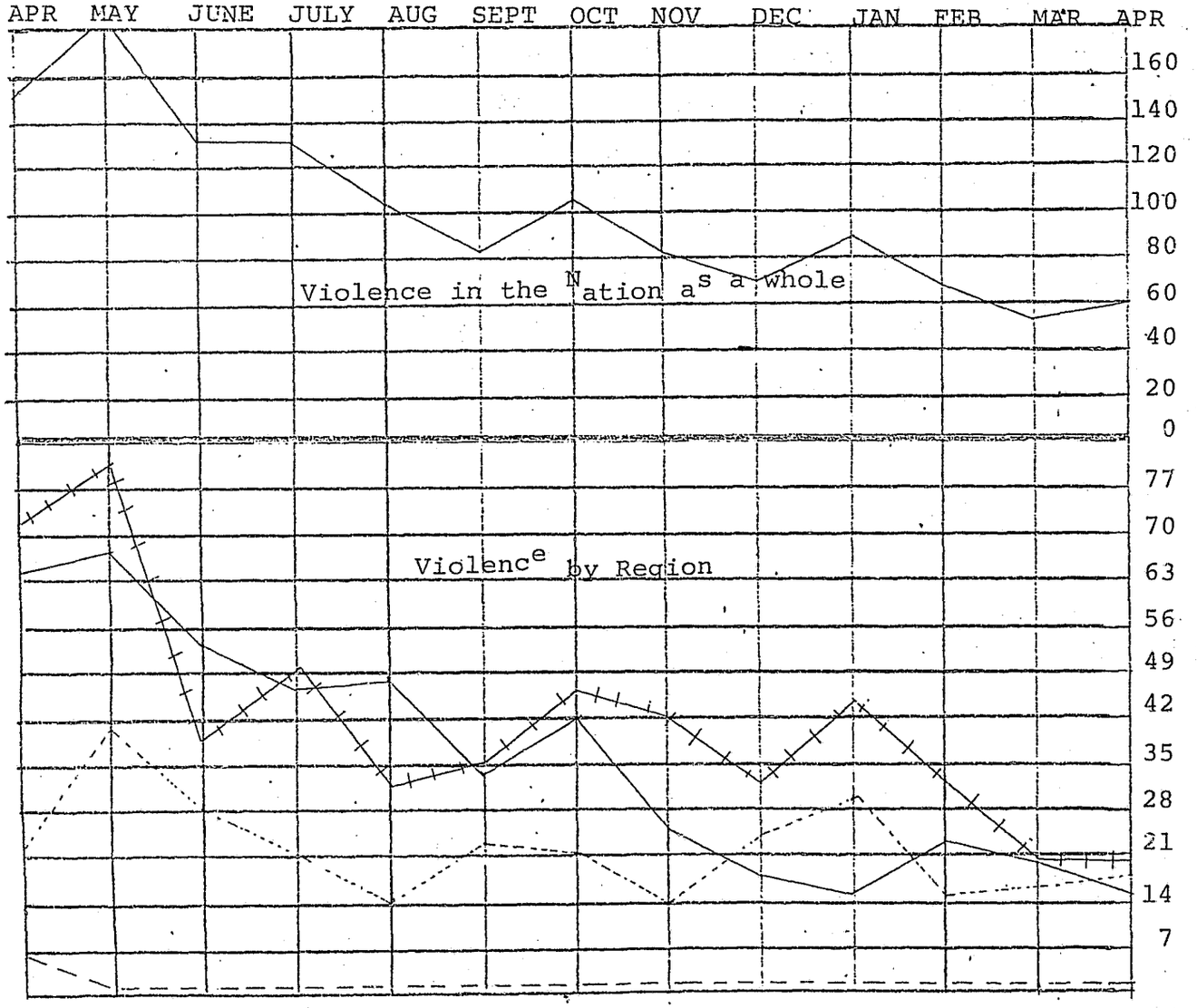
Guatemala

A 73

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - APRIL 1971 - APRIL 1972



For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.

_____ Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala

_/_/_/_/_ South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa

_ _ _ _ _ Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Isabal, El Peten

_ _ _ _ Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola